

Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL:AOA

APPROVED BY: IO:WBBUFFUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 265046

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PDIP, VS, SZ, UN

SUBJECT: PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA

REF: STATE 264789

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM CALLED IN SWISS AMBASSADOR SCHNYDER DECEMBER 3 TO EXPRESS OUR STRONG CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT UNSYG WALDHEIM APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN HIS TENTATIVE AGREEMENT TO THE OPENING OF A PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA. SCHNYDER COMMENTED THE GOS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UNSYG WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH AN OFFICE FOR RELATIONS WITH UN ORGANIZATIONS ON HUMANITARIAN MATTERS. BUFFUM NOTED THAT IN THIS CASE THERE WAS A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE UNSYG TO TRY TO SHIFT THE DECISION-MAKING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GOS AND THAT WE REALIZED THIS PLACED

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THE GOS IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER,

THAT IN GENEVA AS IN NEW YORK THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH ACCREDITATIONS CLEARLY RESTS WITH THE UNSYG.

2. ACCORDINGLY, BUFFUM CONTINUED, WE HAVE ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR TO THE UNSYG THAT THE OPENING OF A PRG LIAISON OFFICE IN GENEVA IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE USG AND WE HAVE REPROACHED HIM FOR THINKING THAT WE HAD POSED NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A MOVE. WE HAVE JUST TRANSMITTED ADDITIONAL, VERY

STRONG INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR SCALI ASKING HIM TO TAKE UP THE ISSUE ONCE AGAIN WITH THE UNSYG IN MOST VIGOROUS TERMS. WE ARE REITERATING TO THE UNSYG OUR ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO A PRG OFFICE, NOTING THAT WE WILL TAKE A DIM VIEW OF THE UNSYG'S PURSUING THE MATTER AND ASKING HIM TO RESCIND HIS MOVES WITH THE GOS IN THIS REGARD -- I.E. TO UNDO WHAT HE HAS DONE. WHILE AN OFFICE FOR HUMANITARIAN LIAISON MAY SOUND HARMLESS, THE PRG WOULD DOUBTLESS REGARD THIS AS A "FOOT-IN-THE-DOOR" POLITICAL DEVICE TO ADVANCE ITS INTERNATIONAL STATUS.

3. BUFFUM CONCLUDED BY ASKING THE SWISS TO DEFER ANY ACTION ON ACCREDITING A PRG OFFICE PENDING CLARIFICATION OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS WITH WALDHEIM. SCHNYDER PROMISED TO REPORT OUR VIEWS PROMPTLY TO THE GOS.

). REQUEST YOU MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH TO GRABER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ALONG THE LINES OF THE FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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NNN

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